



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: December 15, 2020

TO: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Mandelman (Vice Chair), Fewer, Haney, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee

FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director

SUBJECT: 12/15/2020 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

COVID Relief Talks in Congress include \$15 billion for Transit: A national coalition of public transit agencies is requesting urgent federal action to fund mass transit throughout the nation, which is needed as agencies across the country are facing an unprecedented financial catastrophe caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Locally, BART, Muni and other operators are all facing deep cuts to service and to their workforces. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) reported to its Board earlier this month that it anticipates budget deficits of up to \$68 million in Fiscal Year 21 and \$168 million in Fiscal Year 22, with the need to potentially lay off as many as 1226 employees - 22% of its workforce - next year. We are hopeful that a reported \$15 billion in transit relief will be passed by Congress (about half of the \$32 billion included in the proposed HEROES Act) and signed by the end of the year, but SFMTA has warned this may not be enough to forestall grave impacts to Muni staff and services.

Upcoming Regional Workshops for Plan Bay Area 2050 - Final Blueprint Analysis Results and Draft Housing Methodology: The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) continue to make progress on Plan Bay Area 2050, the regional transportation plan and sustainable communities strategy. The regional agencies are hosting webinars on December 18 and January 5 to present the analysis results from the Final Blueprint, and to present the updates made to integrate the Final Blueprint growth pattern into the draft Regional Needs Housing Assessment or RNHA methodology. The regional agencies expect to approve the Final Blueprint for environmental analysis in early 2021 and are planning for final adoption of Plan Bay Area 2050 in the fall of 2021. Our staff will be participating in the webinars to advocate for San Francisco's priorities, and we look forward to collaborating with the regional agencies through the rest of this process.

CPUC Decision on Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Deployment Includes Goals on Disability Access and Equity: In October 2020, when the CPUC issued a proposed decision addressing autonomous vehicle (AV) passenger service deployment, it reflected many provisions that we and the SFMTA advocated for relating to goals, and data collection. However, the proposed decision omitted a goal that AV passenger services should provide equivalent service to people with disabilities, including wheelchair users. It also did not address digital access for those without smart phone or document how the decision is



supported by environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act. In response to reply comments sent jointly by our agencies highlighting these issues, the CPUC voted to amend the origin AV passenger service deployment decision to confirm a clear goal related to disability access. We thank our partners at SFMTA and the City Attorney's Office for collaborating on these efforts.

ITDP Announces U.S. Advisory Group - Focus on Bus Rapid Transit, Bike Infrastructure and Pedestrian-Centered Streets:

ITDP (Institute for Transportation & Development Policy) US announced this week that it has convened a group of advisors made up of nationwide leaders in transportation, urban planning, just sustainability, and mobility justice. I am proud to have been named as one of six advisors who will provide strategic guidance to shape the future of the U.S. ITDP Bus Rapid Transit programs. The U.S. program developed as increasing numbers of U.S. cities are exploring solutions such as bus rapid transit (BRT), bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian-centered streets - particularly in response to COVID-19 and climate change.

LOCAL ISSUES

Muni Service Restorations - Expansions Phase-in Rail service and Bus Service Additions - On Saturday, December 19, the SFMTA will begin the restoration of Muni Metro Service by increasing bus service and resuming several routes based on community feedback, as well as rail service with the J Church between Balboa Park Station and Church and Duboce streets. Additionally, the T Third will resume service between Sunnydale and Embarcadero Station on January 23, 2021, once safety and operation improvements are finished at Embarcadero Station. These changes will put more operators back on Muni and free up to 20 buses, while extending routes, increasing frequencies, resuming other services such as the 27 Bryant, and bringing two new lines into service - 55 Dogpatch and the 15 Bayview-Hunters Point Express. The latter was informed by the 15 Third Bus Study [NTIP Planning] that is on the Consent Agenda for final approval today. More information on the December 19 Muni changes is available on SFMTA's website at <https://www.sfmta.com/blog/upcoming-muni-service-expansions-phase-rail-service-add-bus-service>.

District 4 Mobility Study - Outreach on the Long-Term Future of The Great Highway Continues: Last month on Saturday, November 21, we joined Commissioner Mar and his staff for a Town Hall on the future of the Great Highway attended by over 500 participants. While parallel efforts are addressing the immediate concerns about traffic management and the impacts of the current closure, this event focused on planning for the long-term configuration of the roadway. During the Town Hall, we presented a range of ideas that we have developed with partners at SFMTA and the Recreation and Parks Department. Following the Town Hall, we released a text survey to continue to get feedback on the ideas being considered. The Town Hall slide deck and video recording, as well as information about the survey, is available on our website at sfcta.org/D4mobility.

School Access Plan [Caltrans Planning Grant] - Project Kickoff: We are excited to be kicking off our School Access Plan to develop transportation solutions for medium and long-distance school trips for K-5 students and their families. This study is funded primarily by a Caltrans planning grant and will build on our 2016 Child Transportation Survey. The 2016 survey found that most parents drive their children to school and afterschool activities, that this school commute is challenging, and that most parents are interested in alternative travel



options. The School Access Plan will propose solutions that increase sustainable transportation options, close known equity gaps, and provide travel options for San Francisco parents and children to help reduce vehicle travel. We are coordinating with staff from the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) who are currently updating the SFUSD elementary school assignment policy. Thank you to Commissioner Mar for requesting this study and providing local matching funds. For more information, please contact David Long, Transportation Planner at David.Long@sfcta.org.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Prop K Sales Tax Brings Smoother Streets to Districts 8 and 11 - Alemany Boulevard Project Nearing Substantial Completion: This month, SFPW will reach substantial completion on the Alemany Boulevard pavement renovation project. This project, within both Districts 8 and 11, consisted of street resurfacing of 28 blocks of Alemany Boulevard from Congdon Street to Seneca Avenue. Additionally, the project installed 42 new curb ramps, constructed new sidewalks, and improved traffic control. This scope is part of a larger project which includes sewer replacement, two bulb outs, and traffic signals to be funded by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the SFMTA.

Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit Project - Pouring of Red Concrete Transit Lanes: Last month the project team laid the red concrete foundation for the center running bus rapid transit lanes on Van Ness Avenue. When complete, the new high visibility transit lanes are anticipated to improve bus travel time by 32%, improve reliability by up to 50%, and increase bus boarding by up to 35%. Surface construction also includes median islands, landscaping, bulb-outs, and bus shelters. The project team completed underground utilities and continues to build out red transit lanes in construction zones along the median of Van Ness Avenue while maintaining two lanes of traffic in each direction. The SFMTA's plan is to test in the fall of next year with revenue service date anticipated for December 2021.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

COVID Impacts - September and First Quarter Sales Tax Receipts Higher than Previous Month/Quarter: Sales Tax revenue of \$7.7 million received for September 2020 yielded a 6% increase over the prior month of August 2020. Total collections for First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 appear to be affected by COVID-19 trends (down about 9% compared to budgeted figures) but are 3% higher than the previous quarter. We continue to closely monitor revenue streams and coordinate with the City and sister agencies to assess short, medium, and long-term financial impacts.

Appreciation for Commissioners Fewer and Yee: As we close out the year, on behalf of the Transportation Authority staff, I'd like to thank Commissioners Fewer and Yee and their staffs for their many years of service and roles of leadership with the City and on the Transportation Authority. We have benefitted greatly from your leadership and guidance over the years:

- Commissioner Yee served on the Transportation Authority since 2013, and was one of the original co-authors on our city's Vision Zero ordinance in 2014. He helped create our Vision Zero Committee and served from its inception as Vice Chair for two years and then as Chair for the next five years. During this time, Chair Yee passed numerous pieces of legislation and led myriad traffic safety policy initiatives including requiring telematics in city vehicles, calling for the prioritization of safety measures over traffic and parking, and



expanding daylighting citywide. He championed funding and accountability for Quick Builds, traffic calming, red light enforcement, and other actions to protect seniors and all road users. He advocated alongside WalkSF and Bay Area Families for Safe Streets, both locally in Sacramento and nationally in Washington DC at the capitol, and was omnipresent at school related transportation functions, whether it was Walk and Roll to School Day or showing kids how to cross safely with his "Eddie's Neighborhood" miniature model street. Thank you, Chair Yee, for your strong leadership on Vision Zero and for leading the M-Line undergrounding study and bike/ped path study around Lake Merced, among other District 7 efforts. We will carry these forward and also wish to extend our appreciation to your staff, especially Erica Maybaum.

- Commissioner Fewer served from 2017-2020. She led initiatives around traffic safety in District 1, particularly on Fulton and California streets after devastating crashes there. She sponsored the Golden Gate Park edges study and our recently started Golden Gate Park Access Study of JFK Drive. During our Regional Measure 3 bridge toll discussions, Commissioner Fewer championed bringing rail to the West Side of San Francisco and I was pleased to sit down with her and BART General Manager Bob Powers soon after the measure passed to lay the foundation for those plans. As chair of the Board's budget committee, Supervisor Fewer ensured transportation funds for major infrastructure projects, and supported key smaller efforts in each district, and along with Supervisor Vallie Brown, she created the Office of Racial Equity in July 2019 and we are pleased to be among the first agencies to submit agency-wide plans to advance those goals this year. Thank you Commissioner Fewer for leadership and support for safe and equitable transportation in our city. We extend our appreciation to your staff and in particular Angelina Yu as well.

December Recess - 12/16-1/4: In closing, we thank all of our Commissioners for a productive and rewarding year and wish you and your staffs a safe and relaxing holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!